AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 line 10, as follows:

This application is related to simultaneously-filed and commonly assigned United States Patent Application Serial Number ~~__/___,___, (attorney docket: 2380-187)~~09/829,451, entitled "Binding Information For Telecommunications Network", which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application also claims the benefit and priority of commonly assigned United States Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/257,116, filed December 22, 2000, entitled "Binding Information For Telecommunications Network", which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 25 through page 7, line 4, as follows:

As mentioned above, a DHO is allocated in the SRNC. Fig. 1 shows such a SRNC 326_1 connected to a core network and controlling radio base stations RBS 328_{1-1} through ~~RBS$_{2-1}$~~RBS 328_{2-1}. The SRNC 326_1 has a DHO 327_1, as well as an extension terminal ET 325_1 through which SRNC 326_1 interfaces with Inter-RNC link 329. Fig. 1 further shows a DRNC 326_2, having an extension terminal ET 325_2 for interfacing with the Inter-RNC link, and controlling radio base stations RBS 328_{2-1} through ~~RBS$_{2-2}$~~RBS 328_{2-2}. Fig. 1 shows a situation having a call involving user equipment unit (UE) 330 routed over DRNC 326_2, with a DHO 327_2 also being allocated at the DRNC 326_2 just in case SRNC relocation should occur (e.g., pending SRNC relocation). But this allocation of an extra DHO exacts network resources, and can introduce an undesired delay.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 30 through page 16, line 12, as follows:

To be specific, in the illustration of Fig. 4A the third segment ~~400$_2$~~400$_3$ between ET device 25_2 in drift radio network controller (DRNC) 26_2 and device 27_1 in serving

radio network controller (RNC) 26_1 is established or set up with AAL2 signaling; the second segment 400_2 between ET device 25_{2-1} and ET device 25_2 is established or set up using switching in drift radio network controller (DRNC) 26_2; and the first segment 400_1 between a device in base station 28_{2-1} and ET device 25_{2-1} is established or set up with AAL2 signaling. But the originating node (serving radio network controller (SRNC) 26_1) does not receive an establish confirmation signaling message until the entire user plane path has been setup between the originating node and the terminating node (e.g., the device in base station 28_{2-1}). This means that any other establish confirmation signaling sent with respect to any other connection segment (e.g., connection segment 400_1) must be properly coordinated or sequenced. In particularly, establish confirmation signaling must be sent beginning in closest order of proximity of the corresponding connection segment to the terminating node.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 3, and continuing to page 17, line 11, as follows:

As mentioned above, in the illustrated embodiment extension terminals (ETs) serve as specific examples of first device 25_{2-1} and the second device 25_2. Various aspects of extension terminals (sometimes referred to as "exchange terminals") are generally described, e.g., in one or more of the following (all of which are incorporated herein by reference): United States Patent 6,128,295; U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/249,785, entitled "ESTABLISHING INTERNAL CONTROL PATHS IN ATM NODE", filed February 16, 1999; United States Patent 6,128,295; United States Patent 6,088,359; United States Patent 5,963,553; United States Patent 6,154,459; and United States Patent 6,034,958.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 15, and continuing to page 19, line 29, as follows:

In the two connection segment mode, each one of the plural distinct connection segments are segments of a radio link. As in the three connection segment mode, each such radio link segment is established using an end-to-end protocol, such as AAL2 signaling, for example. To be specific, the second segment 500_2 between ET device 25_2 and DHO 27_1 is established or set up with AAL2 signaling; and the first segment 500_1 between the device in base station 28_{2-1} and ET device 25_2 is established or set up with AAL2 signaling. In like manner as the three connection segment mode, establish confirmation signaling must be sent beginning in closest order of proximity of the corresponding connection segment to the terminating node (e.g., base station 28_{2-1}), so that the originating node (e.g., serving radio network controller (SRNC) 26_1 at which DHO 27_1 is situated) receives establish confirmation signaling only after the entire user plane path has been setup. It is again mentioned that this differs from prior practice, since in prior practice usage of an end-to-end signaling protocol would mean set up or establishment of a radio link between end points of the device 27_1 and a device in base station 28_{2-1}.